

Rainforest

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Animals

Millions of animals live in rainforests. Rainforest animals have special adaptations. They live in all of the forest layers. Some of the animals are endangered.



Scarlet macaws



Scarlet macaws are colorful parrots. They live in the canopy and emergent layers. They eat fruit, nuts, and nectar. They are endangered.



Sloth



Sloths are slow-moving mammals. They live in the rainforest canopy. They hang upside down from branches. They use camouflage to hide.



Poison dart frogs



Poison dart frogs live in the understory. They eat small insects. They have poisonous skin. Their colorful skin warns off predators.



Rhinoceros beetles



Rhinoceros beetles live on the forest floor. They eat rotting fruit and sap. Male beetles have horns on their heads. Rhinoceros beetles are very strong.

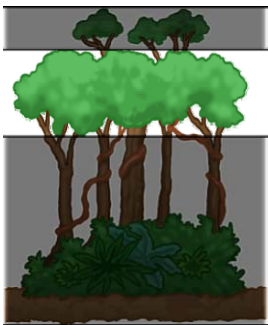
Rainforests Layers

Rainforests have four layers. Each layer has unique characteristics. The layers rely on each other. Plants and animals need all layers to survive.



Emergent Layer

The tallest trees are in the emergent layer. The trees can be 200 feet tall. Buttress roots support them in the wind. Birds live in emergent trees.



Canopy

The canopy is made up of branches and leaves. The canopy forms an umbrella over the forest. It catches the sunlight and rain. Lots of animals live in the canopy.



Understory

The understory is above the forest floor. It is dark and cool. The plants have large leaves. Frogs and snakes live in the understory.



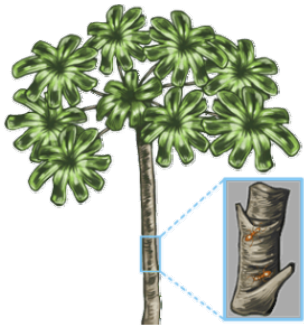
Forest Floor

The forest floor is the bottom of the rainforest. It is dark and damp. Ferns soak up nutrients from the soil. Insects find food on the forest floor.



Plants

Rainforest plants provide shelter for animals. Animals also get food from the plants. The plants have special adaptations. Most rainforest plants are trees.



Cecropias

Cecropias are umbrella-shaped trees. Many animals eat the trees' fruits. Sloths eat the Cecropias' leaves. Ants cut vines from the trees.



Orchids

Most rainforest orchids are epiphytes. They grow on tree branches. Their roots never touch the ground. They soak up moisture from the air.



Strangler Figs

Strangler figs start life as epiphytes. Their roots drop to the ground. The roots wrap around a tree. Strangler figs kill other trees.



Pitcher plant

Pitcher plants are carnivorous plants. Nectar attracts insects to the plants. The insects fall into the pitcher. They cannot climb out of the pitcher.



People

Indigenous people live in rainforests. Rainforests provide food and shelter. Indigenous people are leaving the rainforests. Some people have died from diseases.



Amazon Rainforest

Many people live in the Amazon rainforest. They grow crops such as maize. Tourists often visit Amazon villages. Some forest people sell crafts to



tourist.

Mbuti

The Mbuti are hunter-gatherers. They live in the Ituri Forest. Their houses are made from saplings. The Mbuti have little contact with other people.



Products

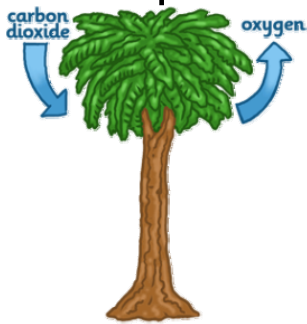
Rainforests give us many foods. Indigenous people use about 2,000 forest fruits. Coffee and sugar come from rainforests. Some houseplants

grew originally in rainforests.



Periwinkle Flowers

Rainforest plants are used as medicine. Periwinkle flowers are used to treat cancer. Indigenous people help us learn about plants. There may be more plants that can help.



Environment

Rainforests help keep the environment healthy. Trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide. They make oxygen for us to breathe. Rainforest plants put moisture back in the air.



Environment

Losing rainforests harms the environment Dead

trees cannot absorb carbon dioxide. Burning trees creates more carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide adds to the greenhouse effect.



Threats

Rainforests of the world are disappearing. They are being destroyed by deforestation. The land is used for logging and farming. The trees are used for furniture and paper.



Damaged rainforests are unable to grow. New plants are difficult to repair. Animals can become extinct. Rainforests need to be protected.